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Abstract of the national paper of Germany

I. German space activities

1. Space technology is regarded by Germany as an essential provider of infrastructures relevant to scientific, societal and economic purposes. Commercial applications are of growing importance in the global, European and national German perspectives. Satellites support numerous policy areas like mobility, information and knowledge, environmental and natural disaster protection, the management of natural resources or development cooperation. Space activities contribute in a unique way to the cultural, material and emotional enrichment of life. Space technology in Germany is no longer seen as mainly basic research.

2. Germany is following a two-pronged strategy in fostering space technology: seeking excellence in basic space science and fostering public-private partnerships in commercial applications such as satellite navigation, Earth observation and further development of launchers. Germany strives for the highest quality in the fields where it conducts space technology development. Core thematic areas are leadership in the European participation in the International Space Station and its multidisciplinary utilization, multimedia satellite technology, satellite navigation, support for the setting-up of commercial Earth observation systems, further development of the Ariane launcher and of re-usable space transportation systems, development of robotics and maintaining the leading position achieved in basic space science through scientifically rewarding and attractive projects.

3. Management responsibilities for publicly financed German space activities have been transferred under Federal law to the German Aerospace Centre (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR), www.dlr.de). In that capacity, DLR drafts the German space strategy for adoption by the Federal Government, manages the space programmes and represents Germany in bilateral and European cooperation (with the European Space Agency (ESA)). DLR is also the national research centre for aerospace and provides technical and space operations infrastructure. It employs around 4,500 people.

4. On the industrial side, the German space industry comprises one large system manufacturer and a whole range of specialized companies, mainly small and medium-sized enterprises, producing subsystems and providing services in numerous space-related fields of technology. Space technology provides highly skilled jobs for about 55,000 individuals. The German space industry is organized in the German Aerospace Industry Association (Bundesverband der Deutschen Luft- und Raumfahrtindustrie (BDLI), www.bdli.de). Completing the German landscape of space activities are a large number of research and academic institutions such as the several Max Planck institutes and universities, but also specialized centres conducting research in basic space science (astronomy, planetary

exploration and microgravity research). German universities and research institutes provide training in space science and technology to students and scholars from all over the world, supported by an extensive scholarship scheme.

5. Germany has been active in space research and applications for more than 30 years and has spent around 15 billion euros (€) on publicly funded German space activities. These funds are subdivided into participation in ESA (1998: €560 million) and in the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (1998: €80 million), a national space programme (1998: €140 million) and research and operations activities of DLR (1998: €110 million). Germany currently spends about 70 per cent of her space programme budget on European programmes, thereby stressing both synergy effects and the political concept that the exploration and utilization of outer space is regarded as a joint European effort. Bilateral cooperation with numerous countries, in particular Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America and also developing countries such as Brazil, China and India, is channelled through the national German programme. German organizations for economic cooperation regularly use Earth observation data to achieve their goals in all parts of the world.

II. German position on UNISPACE III

6. Since becoming a Member State of the United Nations in 1973, Germany has been a member of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and has contributed on a regular basis to its work on various subjects. Substantial support, *inter alia*, in the field of nuclear power sources and space benefits resulted in resolutions of the General Assembly in 1992 and 1996. Germany' s contributions to the discussions on space debris led to the election of a German as Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in 1996. Most recently, during the 1999 sessions of the two subcommittees of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Germany launched initiatives to restructure the agendas of the two subcommittees. Germany regards the Committee and its subcommittees as a major global forum for discussing technical subjects and further developing international space law. In Germany's view, the successful work of the Committee also relies on the Office for Outer Space Affairs, composed of a highly qualified, efficient and dedicated staff.

7. The Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) provides a unique chance to highlight the benefits of space activities for the whole world. Germany will focus its presentations and contributions to the Conference on applications of Earth observation (especially environmental and climate research as well as commercial systems and applications), basic space science, telemedicine (where a workshop in the Technical Forum is to be organized by DLR), navigation and meteorology (in the respective European frameworks), communications (in particular, multimedia applications) and space law.

8. As a result of UNISPACE III, the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should remain strong and become more focused. In particular, the regional centres should become the focal point for activities. Germany will, in coordination with ESA, concentrate its future participation in those centres. Another area of prime interest for the Office for Outer Space Affairs should remain the field of basic space science, where excellent success has been achieved. Germany will continue to support that activity. As a matter of priority, the Office should assist the special programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system as well as the action programmes (like the thematic decades) to take the fullest possible advantage of space applications in fulfilling their tasks and achieving their goals. UNISPACE III should therefore stress the promotion of space applications in the United Nations system.

9. In that context, Germany will offer the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Information Locator System (CILS, www.cils.dlr.de), which has been developed under German leadership in the framework of CEOS, to the United Nations Environment Programme. CILS is a service aimed at meeting the requirements of Earth observation data users, in particular in developing countries. It will provide users with easy access to project information and to relevant auxiliary information on the practical use of Earth observation.

10. From the German perspective, UNISPACE III is an important step in deepening the universal understanding of space technology and of space-related applications. Space applications will have a considerable impact on human security, welfare and development in the twenty-first century.